



THE BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2000

Announcing the 1007th Monthly Meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00 PM, Wednesday, February 23, 2000

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval at 38th Avenue, San Francisco



Trade Coins: Planned Failures and Unplanned Successes

A Numismatic Program by Stephen M. Huston

Members are encouraged to bring items which relate to the topic including any type of "trade coin" from any period in history, their new acquisitions, or other numismatic items of interest.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Numismatic Meetings and Coin Shows

- February 19-20, Saturday & Sunday CSNA Convention and Coin Show
Modesto Center Plaza, 1000 L Street, Modesto, open 10 am daily.
Chairman Terry Woodward (209) 668-3682
- ❖ February 23, Wednesday 8PM **PCNS Monthly Meeting**
Trade Coins — A Program by Stephen Huston
Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval, San Francisco
- March 11, Saturday CSNA 32nd Annual Symposium
Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Fullerton. Contact Tom Fitzgerald (626) 335-3343
- March 17-19, Friday-Sunday Redwood Empire Coin Club Show
Finley Bldg., Sonoma County Fairgrounds
- ❖ March 22, Wednesday 8PM **PCNS Monthly Meeting**
Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval, San Francisco
- ❖ April 26, Wednesday 8PM **PCNS Monthly Meeting**
Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval, San Francisco
- May 7, Sunday Vallejo Numismatic Society 28th Annual Coin Show
New Location: Solano County Bldg. at the Fairgrounds. Info: (510) 526-0538
- ❖ May 24, Wednesday 8PM **PCNS Monthly Meeting**
Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval, San Francisco
- July 28-30, Friday-Sunday NCNA Coin Show, Concord
Information (510) 792-1511

If members know of numismatic events which should be included in this calendar,
please provide details to *The Bulletin* editor: Stephen Huston 1-510-475-8624

We will list timely events of numismatic interest as space allows.

PCNS MEETING REPORT

Coins from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*

Slide show presented January 26, 2000

by Ken Takahashi

Captain Flint's treasure consisted of a huge amount of gold and silver coinage plundered from ships and ports engaged in trade with much of the World in the 1700s. Ken showed slides of many of the coin types mentioned in the book, including:

- ◆ Pieces of Eight
- ◆ Doubloons
- ◆ Louis d'ors
- ◆ Guineas and Double Guineas
- ◆ Georges
- ◆ Sequins and Zecchinos



The Pieces of Eight, the Pillar Dollar or Spanish Milled Dollar, is the one most well-known to collectors. The other coin names may require some explanation because most of them are nicknames which, though current in the 18th Century, are nearly obsolete today.

The doubloon (shown above) is literally a "double" escudo, a Spanish gold coin first called by this name in the 1600s. Later *doubloon* came to be applied to all forms of Spanish gold. The example Ken brought was a handsome portrait coin of the 8-escudo gold type of 1752.

The Louis d'or (shown at right) was a French gold coin bearing the king's portrait. Often the French king was named Louis, thus the "Louis of gold." Ken mentioned that Louis XIV required large mintages of gold to finance his building plans, which continued until the French Revolution (and may have contributed to it).



The Guineas and Double Guineas were British gold coins of Kings George I-III. The name derived from the source of gold—the Guinea Coast region. From 1717 the Guinea was tarified at 21 shillings and contained roughly the same gold as the later US \$5 coin.

"Georges" were another name for the British coins because of the portrait of the various kings George which they bore (shown at left).





Similarly, Portugese gold coins were sometimes known as “Joes” because of King Joseph’s portrait (above).



“Zecchino”



The Sequin was an Ottoman (Turkish) gold coin. The name may have been adapted from the Venetian Zecchino, which was common in Turkey from the 1400s to the 1700s.

Zecchino coins were those patterned after the Venetian gold ducat, which circulated as a trade coin and was frequently copied throughout the Mediterranean region. It was struck with few obvious changes for over 400 years, into the 1700s. The name is actually the Italian word for the Venetian mint.



A WHALE OF A COIN

Because the audience was well-behaved, Ken rewarded us with a bonus—the story of Captain Ahabs gold coin from *Moby Dick*. The coin is described in great detail in the book, and Ken illustrated that it was without a doubt the gold Doubloon of Ecuador showing 3 mountain peaks and the Sun, along with various astrological symbols for the constellations along the elliptic.

Our thanks to Ken for a wonderful program!

—Stephen M. Huston 2/2000

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The following slate of incoming officers was elected and installed at the January meeting:

President	Michael Wehner
Vice-president	David Evans
Secretary	Herb Miles
Treasurer	George Proctor
Past President	Gordon Donnell
Governors	Mark Clark, Ron Johnson and Larry V. Reppeateau

PCNS PLANS SYMPOSIUM

The January meeting of the PCNS Board of Governors spent most of its time discussing plans for an educational symposium to be held this Fall. It is hoped that we can schedule a Saturday late in the year for a day of numismatics presentations.

David Evans has made contact with UC Berkeley about using Alumni Hall, possibly on November 4th.

Stephen Huston was asked to present a request for assistance and sponsorship to CSNA at their convention in Modesto. Updates will be made at the February meeting of PCNS.

MEMBERS SHOW OFF

The January meeting featured short presentations by the following members of items from their collections:

Michael Wehner brought a dancing girl medal with the Lord's Prayer on the reverse from the Portola Fair. An unexpected combination, but every coin has two sides!

Herb Miles brought Bread Tokens and Cricket medals from his Australian 1999 Tour.

Ron Johnson showed recent proof coins, including the 1999 USA silver quarters set.

Paul Holtzman brought the latest from his 620 piece Bird Collection, featuring a coin with White and Black Storks. He also brought the original illustration from which the design was taken, and it is in color so you can tell which stork is which color!

Gordon Donnell brought a 1935 encased cent, 1984 Cable Car Restoration medals, and a Georgia PPIE so-called dollar. He also had a Shreve & C° Perpetual Calendar in silver!

David Evans brought a Fiji crown and shared some details of the Island's history, which included pirates, a penal colony, and missionaries destroying local customs such as cannibalism.

Mark Clark brought medals from F.U.N., including a cast piece with a design copied from an ancient Greek coin, done in much higher relief than the struck medals.

MEDALS PRESENTED

President Michael Wehner presented inscribed silver medals to recent past presidents Gordon Donnell and Herb Miles as his first action following his election in January. We are pleased to note that our two most recent presidents are actively involved on the board—Gordon remains on the Board and Herb is our new Secretary.

MONTHLY RAFFLE

While your Bulletin editor failed to make a list of the prizes, we did note that the first winning ticket belonged to Gordon Donnell; another was held by Larry Reppeteau. Paul Holtzman and David Evans each had to make multiple selections from the pile as their tickets were drawn repeatedly.

SPEAKERS NEEDED

If you or someone you know is able to present a numismatic program either to our Society at its monthly meetings, or for the educational symposium this Fall, please let our officers know.

We are looking for speakers for the meetings who can offer a presentation on a numismatic topic which may be new to our members. Meeting programs need not be scholarly topics. Ken Takahashi's program (reported elsewhere in the Bulletin) presented a combination of literature and numismatics in an entertaining slide show which provided new information to the members present.

The Symposium is planned to include presentations of new numismatic information and studies which have not been presented publicly or published. (We could consider them for publication after the symposium if this seems appropriate.)



In 1687, the new Archbishop of Salzburg, Johann Ernst, struck an extensive series of gold and silver coins bearing the date of his elevation. The quality of strike was exceptional for that era, but most of these coins have a warped appearance when viewed on edge. His mint used "roller dies" which literally rolled the coin blank between two rounded dies. This early machine-struck series produced sharp detail, but the finished coins are not flat and are often slightly oval from having been "rolled" in one direction rather than struck evenly over their entire surface.